

# Journal of the Royal Society of Arts

NO. 4921

FRIDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1954

VOL. CII

## DEATH OF MR. GEORGE KENNETH MENZIES

We record with deep regret the death, on 12th March, of George Kenneth Menzies, C.B.E., M.A., a Vice-President and former Secretary of the Society. Mr. Menzies had attended the meeting of the Society's Council on the previous Monday, when he appeared to be in good health and was looking forward to taking part in the Bicentenary celebrations. The brevity of his final illness must bring some consolation to his widow, to whom the sincere sympathy of the Society is extended.

Mr. G. K. Menzies first became associated with the Society in 1908, when he was appointed Assistant Secretary. Before that, he had been on the staff of St. Andrew's University and had held various administrative posts, including that of Secretary in the Academic Department of the University of London. He also made a name as a writer, both of verse and prose, being for many years a regular contributor to *Punch*. One of his poems is to be found in *Songs of Praise*, and in later life he used his literary gifts in the Society's service in the preparation of *The Story of the Royal Society of Arts*, published in 1935.

In 1917 Mr. Menzies was appointed Secretary in succession to Sir Henry Trueman Wood, and he held that office until his retirement in 1935. His secretaryship could scarcely have covered a more difficult period, including as it did the last years of the First World War, the General Strike and, most difficult of all for a voluntary body, the 'slump' of the early 'thirties, but he had the satisfaction, before vacating his post, of witnessing the beginning of a period of prosperity for the Society, the foundation of which had been laid during the difficult years.

Among the Society's major achievements during the 'twenties and early 'thirties were the initiation and conduct for ten years of the annual Competition of Industrial Designs in the course of which over 27,000 entries were received and judged, and a total of £11,000 prize money was raised and awarded, the raising of the Fund for the Preservation of Ancient Cottages which provided for the restoration of Arlington Row, Bibury, and the entire village of West Wycombe, and the Exhibition of British Art in Industry, held by the Society in conjunction with the Royal Academy at Burlington House in 1935, which has had so profound an effect on the improvement of industrial design in this



*From the portrait by T. C. Dugdale, R.A., in the Society's House*

country. All these important and successful undertakings imposed a heavy burden of administration on the Secretary. Mr. Menzies' greatest personal achievement on the Society's behalf, however, was the obtaining of the anonymous gift of £30,000, which enabled the Society to buy its House in 1922. In this, modest as he ever was, he rightly took a quiet but happy pride.

Mr. Menzies' public services were recognized in 1932 by his appointment as a C.B.E., and on his retirement the Council elected him an Honorary Life Fellow. At the Annual General Meeting shortly after, he was elected a Member of Council, becoming a Vice-President in 1938, and in 1941 he received the further special honour of becoming one of the four Vice-Presidents nominated by the President.

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His passing is a great loss to the Society and is mourned by his colleagues on the Council, by all members of the Society who were privileged to know him, and by those who served under him. Nevertheless, his lot in reaching the ripe age of 84, and in being able until the last to take a useful part in the affairs of the Society which he had served so devotedly for many years, is one which will be envied by not a few.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

THE BICENTENARY WEEK

MONDAY, 22ND MARCH, AT 11.30 a.m. Thanksgiving Service at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. Sermon by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Peterborough.

MONDAY, 22ND MARCH, AT 3 p.m. Presentation of congratulatory addresses by kindred bodies. Address of welcome by the Right Honble. the Earl of Radnor, K.C.V.O., Chairman of Council. Closing Address by the Right Honble. Viscount Samuel, P.C., G.C.B., G.B.E., a former Vice-President of the Society.

TUESDAY, 23RD MARCH, AT 3 p.m. BICENTENARY LECTURE '*The Arts, 1754-1954*', by Nikolaus Pevsner, C.B.E., M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., Slade Professor of Fine Art, University of Cambridge. The lecture will be illustrated with lantern slides.

WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH, AT 3 p.m. BICENTENARY LECTURE '*Manufactures, 1754-1954*', by Sir Ben Lockspeiser, K.C.B., F.R.S., Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

THURSDAY, 25TH MARCH, AT 3 p.m. BICENTENARY LECTURE '*Commerce, 1754-1954*', by Sir Geoffrey Heyworth, Chairman, Unilever, Ltd.

Tea will be served after each of the afternoon functions.

No further tickets of admission are available for any of these events, except the Thanksgiving Service on Monday morning.

OTHER FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

TUESDAY, 30TH MARCH, AT 5.15 p.m. COMMONWEALTH SECTION. '*The Experiment of a State Medical Service in New Zealand*', by Sir Arthur Porritt, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.A., F.R.C.S. The Right Honble. Lord Horder, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P., a Vice-President of the Society, will preside. (Tea will be served from 4.30 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, 31ST MARCH, AT 2.30 p.m. '*The Painter and his Public, 1754-1954*', by Bernard Adams, R.P., R.O.I. Philip A. Lambe, M.A., R.P., will preside.

THURSDAY, 8TH APRIL, AT 5.15 p.m. COMMONWEALTH SECTION '*The Meteorological Office and the Commonwealth*', by Professor O. G. Sutton, C.B.E., D.Sc., F.R.S., Director of the Meteorological Office.

## POSTPONEMENT OF RECEPTION

It is greatly regretted that, owing to an important State function, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Society, finds that he will be unable to attend the Bicentenary Reception at St. James's Palace on the 29th June as he had originally intended. In view of this, the Council have decided to postpone the Reception to a date in the autumn when His Royal Highness will be able to be present. An announcement of the new date will be made in the *Journal* as soon as possible, and Fellows are therefore asked to watch for this notice, which will give full details about the renewal of applications.

## THE ALBERT MEDAL

The Council are now considering the award of the Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts for 1954. They therefore invite Fellows of the Society to forward to the Secretary, by 9th April, the names of such men of high distinction as they may think worthy of this honour. The medal was struck to reward 'distinguished merit in promoting Arts, Manufactures and Commerce'. A list of previous recipients appeared in the last issue of the *Journal*.

## THE BICENTENARY AND THE JOURNAL

In order that the Bicentenary celebrations may be reported as a whole the next two issues of the *Journal* will be devoted to them entirely. The first issue will contain an illustrated report of the various functions organized for the Bicentenary week. The second issue will contain the report of the three special Bicentenary lectures. To make this arrangement possible, publication of the first issue will be postponed one week, until 9th April.

## MEETING OF COUNCIL

A meeting of Council was held on Monday, 8th March, 1954. Present: Mr. E. Munro Runtz (in the Chair); Mr. F. H. Andrews; Sir Alfred Bossom; Sir Frank Brown; Sir Edward Crowe; Sir John Forsdyke; Mr. P. A. Le Neve Foster; Captain L. G. Garbett; Mr. John Gloag; Sir Ernest Goodale; Mr. A. C. Hartley; Dame Caroline Haslett; Dr. R. W. Holland; Lord Horder; Sir Harry Lindsay; Mr. G. K. Menzies; Mr. F. A. Mercer; Sir Francis Meynell; Mr. J. A. Milne; Mr. O. P. Milne; Sir William Ogg; Mr. E. M. Rich; Mr. A. R. N. Roberts; Sir Andrew Rowell; Mr. Gordon Russell; Sir Harold Saunders; Sir Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke; Sir John Simonsen; Mr. William Will; Sir Griffith Williams; Mr. J. G. Wilson; Sir John Woodhead, and Miss Anna Zinkeisen; with Mr. K. W. Luckhurst (Secretary) and Mr. R. V. C. Cleveland-Stevens (Assistant Secretary).

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ELECTIONS

The following candidates were duly elected Fellows of the Society:

Albury, Miss Harriet Elizabeth Winn, Greenwich Point, New South Wales, Australia.  
Almond, Henry Nicholas, M.A., Darlington, Co. Durham.  
Angers, William P., A.M., Ph.D., Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.  
Anstruther, Major Douglas, London.  
Bailey, Ian Leslie, A.R.I.B.A., Portsmouth, Hants.  
de Buda, Miss Edith, London.  
Chandler, Alfred William Richard, F.C.I.S., Woodford Green, Essex.  
Colvill, George William, Cobham, Surrey.  
Davien, Geoffrey Wright, London.  
Davies, Emrys, Ph.C., M.P.S., Cranbrook, Kent.  
Dorling, John William, B.Sc., London.  
England, Arthur John, Leominster, Herefordshire.  
Farr, Peter J., M.A., Hitchin, Herts.  
Fazzano, Joseph R., Rhode Island, U.S.A.  
Finlay, Desmond George, F.C.I.S., Chepstow, Mon.  
Goadby, Douglas, Chislehurst, Kent.  
Goodenough, Sir Richard Edmund, Bart., Auckland, New Zealand.  
Greenwood, Herbert Denis, York.  
Guilmette, Mrs. Francoise, R.N., D.P.H., Montreal, Canada.  
Hart, Claude Albert, Birmingham.  
Haji, Abbas Ali, B.A., Amravati, India.  
Hamied, Khwaja A., B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D., F.R.I.C., Bombay, India.  
Heyden, Arthur, Cheltenham, Glos.  
Holland, Samuel Philippe Alexandre, A.R.I.B.A., Wembley, Middlesex.  
House, Eric Alfred Scholefield, F.R.I.B.A., Ampthill, Beds.  
Hull, Norman Thomas Stephen, Honiton, Devon.  
Huthwaite, Arthur George, M.M., Bromley, Kent.  
Karraker, Professor Cyrus H., M.A., Ph.D. Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.  
Lavender, Miss Mary Helen Stanley, Wahroonga, New South Wales, Australia.  
Llewellyn, Arthur Royston, London.  
MacConville, John, F.R.I.C.S., London.  
McDonald, Miss Cecilia, S.R.N., Birmingham.  
Marshall, John Eric, Rossall, Lancs.  
Meronti, Orestes Charles, Ewell, Surrey.  
Merthyr, The Right Honble. Lord, T.D., M.A., Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire.  
Morton, Jocelyn Wiseman Fagan, B.A., Carlisle, Cumberland.  
Newhouse, Bertram M., New York City, U.S.A.  
Osman, Mohammad, B.A., London.  
Paterson, The Rev. Canon Edward George, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia.  
Paton, Professor George Whitecross, M.A., LL.D., Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.  
Pitman, Kenneth Roy, London.  
Pratty, Derrick Edward Henry, A.R.C.A., Llanelli, Carms.  
Reilly, Professor Edward Ernest, B.S.A., M.S., London, Ontario, Canada.  
Rice, Geoffrey George, Guildford, Surrey.  
Robinson, Eric Henry, M.A., Bristol.  
Sandiford, John, Rochdale, Lancs.  
Sewell, Wing Commander Kenneth James, Farnborough, Hants.  
Slater, Earl Hubert, B.A., London, Ontario, Canada.  
Strahan, Francis C., L.R.I.B.A., London.

Tomalin, Gordon, M.I.Struct.E., London.  
 Tse-jen, Hua, O.B.E., M.B., B.S., Hong Kong.  
 Watney, John Douglas, London.  
 White, James Napier, Bedford.  
 Wilson, Geoffrey Hawkins, Bowness-on-Windermere, Westmorland.  
 Wood, Bert, Christchurch, Hants.  
 Wright, Harold James Lean, London.

## CHAIRMAN'S BADGE OF OFFICE

Mr. J. A. Milne presented to Mr. Runtz, to accept on behalf of the Society, the Badge of Office which has been prepared by Professor R. Y. Goodden, R.D.I., and which is being given to the Society by Mr. Milne as a memento of his long association with the Society.

## R.D.I. JOINT COMMITTEE

The Council members of the R.D.I. Joint Committee were reappointed to serve for the next twelve months.

## ALBERT MEDAL

Further consideration was given to the award of the Albert Medal for 1954.

## APPOINTMENT OF ARCHIVIST

It was reported that Mr. D. G. C. Allan, M.Sc. (Econ.), had been appointed to assist the Librarian in the arrangement and listing of the loose manuscript records of the Society.

## OTHER BUSINESS

A quantity of financial and other business was transacted.

## THOMAS GRAY MEMORIAL TRUST AWARDS

## ACTIVITIES IN 1953

*Thomas Gray Bursaries Scheme*

In accordance with the decision taken by the Council on the recommendation of the Thomas Gray Memorial Trust Committee, in 1953, a three-year scheme has been set up to provide Bursaries for cadets training for the Merchant Navy. The object of the scheme is to help cadets whose training is threatened with interruption through financial difficulties. A bursary of £50 each is offered in each year of the scheme to the training ships H.M.S. *Worcester* and H.M.S. *Conway* and the Training College and School of Navigation, Southampton, and a cadet in each of the first two training establishments was awarded a bursary in 1953.

*Prize for an Essay*

The Council, on the recommendation of the Thomas Gray Memorial Trust Committee, has awarded the prize of £50 offered last year for an essay to Captain F. D. Gardner, of the s.s. *Sugar Refiner*. The subject prescribed for the competition was 'The Improvement of Cargo Handling Appliances'.

*Deed of Professional Merit*

The prize of £50 offered for a Deed of Professional Merit has been awarded to Mr. J. T. Lishman, Third Officer, R.F.A. *Black Ranger*. Mr. Lishman took the ship's motor life-boat to the sinking s.s. *Mountcharles* and, handling it with great skill in conditions of exceptional difficulty, succeeded in rescuing the entire crew.

*Extra-Master's Silver Medal*

A Silver Medal has been awarded in connection with the 1953 Examinations for the Extra-Master's Certificate, to Mr. E. C. F. Irvine.

## OFFER OF AN AWARD FOR 1954

*Prize of £50 for a Deed of Professional Merit*

In recognition of the remarkable skill which is so constantly displayed at sea, the Council offers a prize of £50 to a member of the British Merchant Navy for a deed brought to its notice which, in the opinion of the judges to be appointed by the Council, is of outstanding professional merit.

The period to be covered by the offer will be the year ending 30th September, 1954, and deeds of a character worthy to be considered for this offer may be brought to the notice of the Council by any person not later than 31st December, 1954. They will not, however, be considered by the judges unless they have been endorsed by a recognized authority or responsible person able to testify to the deed to be adjudged.

The Council reserves the right to withhold, reduce or divide, the above award at their discretion.

## INDUSTRIAL ART BURSARIES COMPETITIONS

## 1953 COMPETITION

At the request of the Council the Industrial Art Bursaries Board again organized a Competition in 1953, and Bursaries of £150 were offered for the design of Carpets; Domestic Electrical Appliances; Domestic Gas Appliances; Domestic Solid-Fuel-Burning Appliances; Dress Textiles; Electric-Light Fittings; Footwear; Furnishing Textiles; Furniture; Men's Wear Fabrics; P.V.C. Plastics Sheeting; 'Perspex', and Wall-paper. The Sir Frank Warner Memorial Medal was also offered for the best design in the Carpet, Dress Textiles, Men's Wear Fabrics, and Furnishing Textiles Sections.

The Competition was open to full-time or part-time students between the ages of seventeen and thirty of art, architectural, technical or other, colleges or schools approved by the Society, and in the Domestic Gas and Domestic Solid-Fuel-Burning Appliances Sections eligibility was extended to include young draughtsmen, clerks or other similar persons engaged in those industries, provided that they were recommended as having sufficient ability to compete in a national competition by a responsible officer of the industry concerned. In all 232 candidates, from 60 schools and industrial establishments, entered the Competition; this compares with 233 candidates in 1952, 156 in 1951, and

189 in 1950, in which years the numbers of schools represented were 64, 45 and 38 respectively.

Candidates were required both to undergo a Set Test, carried out under invigilation over a period beginning on the 2nd November, 1953, arranged by their schools, and also to submit Examples of Work, chosen from the work done by them in the ordinary course of their studies since 1st September, 1952.

As in the past the Council's purpose in arranging the Competition was to enable successful candidates to broaden their knowledge and experience by travel abroad and the study of foreign design, or in certain cases to obtain art training or industrial experience in this country. The success of the tours made by Bursary winners depends largely upon their meeting manufacturers and industrial designers in the countries visited and, in past years, many people in this country have kindly given assistance by providing helpful introductions. In this connection the Bursaries Board would be grateful to hear from Fellows who may be able to provide help to these students when abroad.

The Council desires to express its thanks to all those who have assisted and advised on the conduct of the Competitions, particularly the firms, organizations and individuals who generously subscribed towards the cost of the Bursaries, the Juries for their voluntary services, and the Principals of the 60 schools represented for their co-operation.

#### Awards

The Council, adopting the recommendations of the Industrial Art Bursaries Board based on the reports of the Juries, has awarded Bursaries amounting in value to £2,400. This compares with a total of £2,225 awarded in 1952. The following Awards and Commendations have been made in connection with the 1953 Competition:

#### DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

*Bursary (£150): Mr. Peter Hammond\** (Birmingham College of Art and Crafts: age 22)

*Bursary (£75): Mr. Peter Douglas Durden\** (Birmingham College of Art and Crafts: age 17)

#### ELECTRIC-LIGHT FITTINGS

*Bursary (£150): Mr. John Christopher Keith Hardaker\** (Birmingham College of Art and Crafts: age 19)

*Bursary (£75): Mr. Barrie Maurice Eccleston* (Birmingham College of Art and Crafts: age 24)

*Commended: Miss Patricia Ann Clifford* (Kingston School of Art: age 17)

#### DOMESTIC GAS APPLIANCES

*Bursary (£150): Mr. Colin Reginald Cheetham* (L.C.C. Central School of Arts and Crafts: age 27)

*Bursary (£75): Mr. John Lincoln Fagg* (Kingston School of Art: age 24)

#### DOMESTIC SOLID-FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES

*Bursary (£150): Mr. Frank Watkins* (School of Wood, Metals and Plastics, Royal College of Art: age 28)

*Bursary (£75): Mr. William Easton Wren* (a draughtsman in the drawing office of Messrs. Lane & Girvan, Ltd., Bonnybridge: age 27)

*Commended: Mr. Anthony Charles Blight* (L.C.C. Central School of Arts and Crafts: age 17); *Mr. John Vernon Sharp* (School of Wood, Metals and Plastics, Royal College of Art: age 26)

## CARPETS

*Bursary (£150): Miss Olive Teresa Margaret Bamfield\** (School of Art, Royal Technical College, Salford: age 20)

*Commended: Mr. Martin Hardingham* (Nottingham College of Art and Crafts: age 20)

## DRESS TEXTILES

*Bursary (£150): Miss Eileen Mary Davies\** (L.C.C. Central School of Arts and Crafts: age 19)

*Bursary (£150): Miss Lois Mary Hume\** (West Sussex College of Art and Crafts, Worthing: age 19)

*Bursary (£150): Mr. Dennis Roger Limbrick\** (West Sussex College of Art and Crafts, Worthing: age 20)

*Commended: Miss Valerie Marjorie Jones* (Coventry School of Art: age 18); *Miss Margaret Winifred McHale* (Birmingham College of Art and Crafts: age 19); *Miss Mary McBeth Rankin* (Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen: age 20)

## MEN'S WEAR FABRICS

*Bursary (£150): Miss Ngareta Ann Scott\** (Brighton College of Art and Crafts: age 19)

## FURNISHING TEXTILES

*Bursary (£150): Miss Constance Mary Holt* (Leeds College of Art: age 23)

*Commended: Miss Patricia Mary Nuttall* (Blackburn School of Art: age 20); *Mr. Anthony Noel Lintott* (Brighton College of Art and Crafts: age 23); *Mr. Tony Rowles* (Derby College of Art: age 21)

## P.V.C. PLASTICS SHEETING

*Bursary (£150): Miss Margaret Capell* (L.C.C. Hammersmith School of Arts and Crafts: age 22)

*Commended: Miss Virginia Newnham* (Birmingham College of Art and Crafts: age 18); *Miss Josephine Phyllis Lily Wood* (Poole College for Further Education: age 18)

## 'PERSPEX'

*Bursary (£150): Mr. Kenneth Ryan\** (Kingston School of Art: age 19)

## FOOTWEAR

*Commended: Miss Thelma May Harper* (Northampton College of Technology: age 19); *Mr. Michael John Haswell* (Leicester Colleges of Art and Technology: age 19)

*Bursary (£150): Mr. Thomas Brian Dunne* (School of Wood, Metals and Plastics, Royal College of Art: age 29)

*Commended: Mr. Edward James Arundell* (School of Wood, Metals and Plastics, Royal College of Art: age 21); *Mr. Roger Ridley Bennett* (High Wycombe College of Further Education: age 21); *Mr. John Russell Skipper* (High Wycombe College of Further Education: age 18)

WALL-PAPER

*Bursary (£150): Miss Margaret McDonald Stewart* (Glasgow School of Art: age 21)

*Commended: Mr. Lawrence Strong* (Carlisle School of Art: age 18); *Mr. James Anthony Rowe* (Kingston School of Art: age 21)

*The Sir Frank Warner Memorial Medal: Miss Patricia Mary Nuttall* (Blackburn School of Art: age 20)

\*Also awarded Associate Membership of the Royal Society of Arts.

*Publication of Report*

Full details of the 1953 Competition will be contained in the annual Report on the Competition which will be published together with the Particulars of the next Competition in May. This Report will contain particulars of the tests set in each section, the names of the winning and commended candidates, the reports and composition of the Juries, and a summary of the uses made of Bursaries in 1953 by previous Bursary winners. Illustrations of most of the winning designs, a number of which are reproduced in the following pages, will also be included.

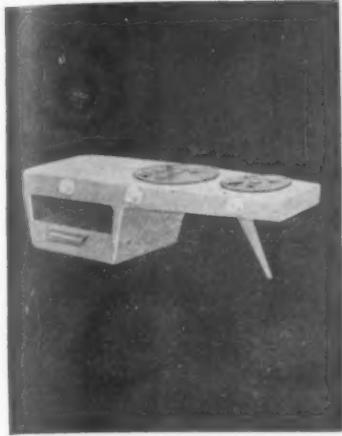
*Exhibition*

An exhibition of the winning and commended designs in the 1953 Competition will be held at the Royal Society of Arts from Wednesday, 19th May to Friday, 4th June, 1954, and will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, and from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, 29th May. Arrangements are being made for a number of industrial art designs submitted for the Society's awards in the eighteenth century to be exhibited in the Society's House at the same time.

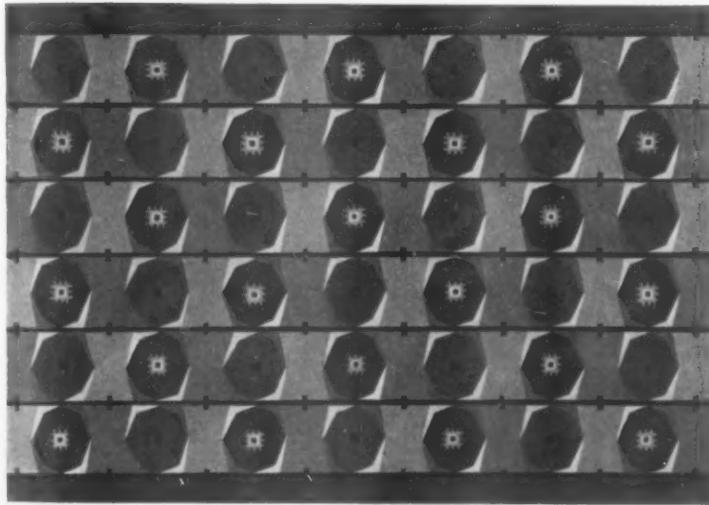
Included in the exhibition will be the reports prepared by Bursary winners on the uses made of their bursaries in 1953.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1954 COMPETITION

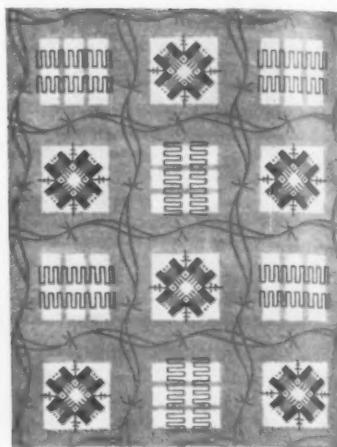
The Council has decided to hold a further Competition in 1954, which will be organized on the same lines as that in 1953. Particulars of this Competition will, as stated above, be published together with the Report on the 1953 Competition in May, and the list of sections to be included will then be announced in the *Journal*.



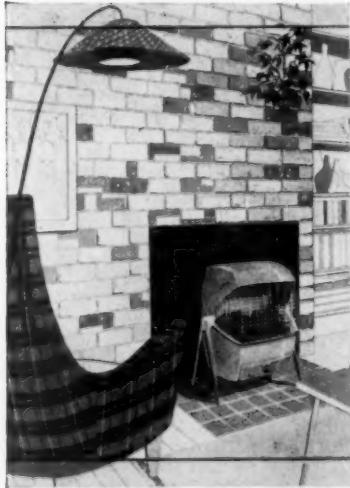
*Left : design for a breakfast (table) cooker with a double burner hot-plate and grill compartment underneath, by Mr. Colin R. Cheetham. Right : design for a small electric cooking appliance suitable for a one-room flat, by Mr. P. Hammond*



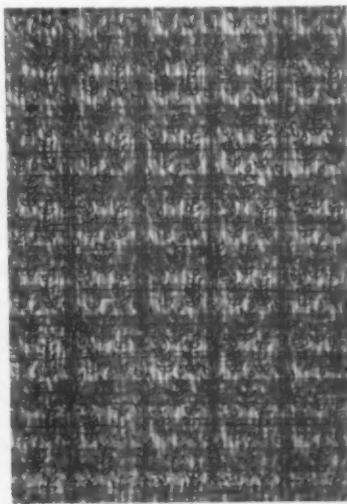
*Design for an Axminster carpet square, in eleven colours, for the board-room of an important engineering firm, by Miss Teresa Bamfield*



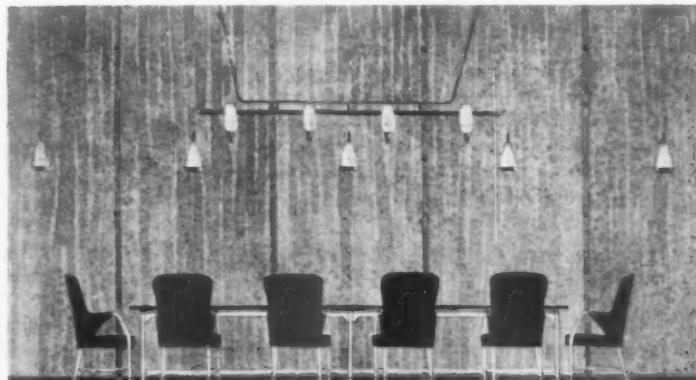
*Design in uncut moquette, with three warps and a weave effect in dead pile, for tight covers for the chairs in a living-room furnished as shown in the photograph, by Miss Constance Mary Holt*



*Solid-fuel-burning free-standing open fire: (left) in contemporary setting and (right) in traditional surround, by Mr. Frank Watkins*



*Left : design for four-colour machine-printed wall-paper for a bedroom of an eighteenth century house, by Miss Margaret M. Stewart.  
Right : a washable machine-printed poplin dress fabric, in four colours, suitable for summer wear, by Miss Lois Mary Hume*



*Proposed lighting scheme for a boardroom, by Mr. J. C. K. Hardaker*

NOTE : The descriptions of the illustrations are taken from the candidates' submissions

# THE SOCIETY'S EARLY DAYS: NEW LIGHT FROM ITS CORRESPONDENCE

*A paper by*

**KENNETH W. LUCKHURST, M.A.**

*Secretary of the Society, read on Wednesday,  
24th February, 1954, with Sir Harry Lindsay,  
K.C.I.E., C.B.E., Chairman of the Society's  
History Committee, in the Chair*

**THE CHAIRMAN:** The subject of Mr. Luckhurst's paper this afternoon is 'The Early Days of the Society: New Light from its Correspondence', and I am in the very happy position here of not having to introduce your lecturer to you. You all know him, you all like and value him. I hesitate to expand on his good qualities in his own presence, but I will just say this about him: how very much we all admire his scholarship. It sounds perhaps a cold word to use, but when you remember that Mr. Luckhurst has been with us since 1935, and the warmth with which he has devoted his scholarly and efficient mind to the services of the Society, you will, I am quite sure, grasp what I am after.

This is not the first occasion on which he has lectured to the Society, for he gave us a talk a few years ago on the subject of 'William Shipley: the Growth of an Idea', and that talk has been printed and published by the Society. Mr. Luckhurst is also the author of a standard book on exhibitions, entitled *The Story of Exhibitions*, and he is co-author with Mr. Derek Hudson of the forthcoming history of the Society, celebrating its Bicentenary little less than a month from now.

## THE PAPER

My subject this afternoon is the remarkable collection of letters preserved by this Society in its old guard books, and I am tempted to borrow my opening sentence from one of them<sup>1</sup> which begins as follows:

'My Lords, and Gentlemen,

'Having but little to do, at Present, I am determined to turn Author:  
And I think, That the best Excuse I can possibly make for so hazardous  
an Attempt: And further believe it a prevailing Motive with many Others,  
though they have not Candour enough to own it. . . .'

Perhaps it is scarcely true that I have little to do at present; but it is true that for me to turn author was, and still is, a 'hazardous attempt', and particularly to stand up and read the results before such an audience. However, as it happens, more than half my paper is not of my own writing but was contributed nearly two hundred years ago by various correspondents of the Society. My job has simply been to choose and set in array a few examples of these old letters. Yet here again Abraham Mason, whom I quoted just now, has a winged word:

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THE SOCIETY'S EARLY DAYS

'A Methodist in Writing', says he, '(like an indifferent Apothecary) frequently shews more Skill, in the Order of his Shop, than in the right Use of his Medicines'. I sincerely hope, ladies and gentlemen, that in spite of my lack of skill you will depart from here none the worse for what I dispense to you!



*William Shipley, founder of the Society (from an engraving by W. Hincks of his own miniature in the possession of the Society) and, below, his signature*

Your most obedient Servt,  
William Shipley.

The guard books to which I have referred contain a selection, and by inference the most important portion, of all the letters which the Society received during its first twenty years, until, that is, it removed to its present home. There are letters from the great and the humble, from neighbouring streets and distant

countries, and dealing with every kind of subject from art to agriculture and from medicine to mechanics. They form, in fact, as well mixed a collection as any post office mail bag of to-day.

With our bicentenary less than a month ahead I feel that it will be in keeping with your thoughts if I read to you this afternoon a few of these letters, and for this purpose I have made a selection representative of various aspects of the Society and its work at that time. Hardly any of them have been published before, and, individually, few of them are of any great historical importance: some of them indeed are frankly trivial, though I trust entertaining. But I hope that, taken together, they will help to recapture for you something of the atmosphere of those early days and also afford an opportunity of paying tribute to a few of the men 'whose public spirit' (to quote the words of an inscription downstairs) 'gave rise to this Society'.

Let us begin, then, with a letter from our founder himself, William Shipley. Except for a comparatively short period when he was head of a drawing academy in the Strand, Shipley led a quiet and retired life, and it is clear from all the facts we know about him that his chief ambition was simply to give help to all who needed it. The idea of this Society sprang from just that motive. Shipley felt that if those who had money to give (of which he was not one) would only pool their contributions in a common fund and on a national scale, there was no limit to the good that they could do. Once he had formed this idea it became a mission with him to see the fund established, and for a man of his retiring disposition the task must have involved particular self-sacrifice. But once it had been accomplished, and a substantial fund had been contributed and was being usefully administered, Shipley felt that his part was finished and that the time had come for him to withdraw. For a short while he had acted as the Society's Secretary, at first on an honorary basis, and then assisted by a small salary. Then, when he spoke of retiring, he was persuaded to accept, for a short time, a new and subsidiary office as Registrar. Finally, however, in 1760, he departed from the Society's service altogether, though never from its deepest respect and affection, for as a Perpetual Member he maintained his contact with it until his death. Let me read to you, then, the modest letter<sup>2</sup> in which he took formal leave of the Society as one of its officers.

Strand Dec<sup>r</sup> ye 10th 1760.

Gentlemen,

Having (pursuant to your Orders) delivered to my Successor Mr. Tuckwel all the Articles belonging to the Society which have been by you committed to my Trust & on this Occasion I most gratefully acknowledge the Favour you have done me in continuing me so long your Register and more particularly for your accepting of my imperfect Service[s] which have often been so very defective as rather to deserve your Censure than your unanimous Thanks.

It is with the utmost Pleasure that I can congratulate you on your great success in your most noble & Publick spirited Undertakings for the Good of Mankind in General and of this Nation in Particular. With what

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Joy do I behold your Plan patronised by such Numbers of the Nobility and Gentry! As you are in so short a Time encreased to no middle Degree of Greatness & as there [are] amongst you such a Multitude of Gentlemen profoundly skilled in every Branch of Beneficial Knowledge I presume that there will be no sums how great soever contributed to this Society but you will soon find subjects proper to employ them, and I presage from the unbounded Flow of Publick spirited Benevolence which every where prevails throughout this Kingdom that there are no Designs how great soever which you will propose to be executed but sufficient sums will soon be raised for you properly to promote them.

As my Abilities are so small I despair even of contributing my Mite towards promoting your so great and Good Designs but you have ever my best Wishes which are that your Successes in all your Undertakings for the Publick Good may be equal to that Noble & Publick spirited Zeal by which on every Occasion you have so remarkably distinguished yourselves & with the utmost Respect I subscribe myself

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient

and very humble Servant,

WILLIAM SHIPLEY

There is little doubt that Shipley's administrative powers were limited, as he himself so modestly asserts in this letter. Fortunately, however, there was a friend of his, a man with the same self-effacing spirit and moved by the same ideals, but also possessed of much greater abilities and far wider experience of the world, who was willing to supply just what Shipley lacked. This was Henry Baker, a noted botanist and a Fellow of the Royal Society, after whom the Bakerian Lecture is named. Baker was one of the eleven who attended the Society's first meeting, and he remained a zealous supporter of its work for many years. Most of what he did was well behind the scenes, but on one occasion strong feelings overcame his modesty and he felt compelled to tell the Society how much it owed to him. As we also to-day should realize better our debt to Baker, I propose to read to you part of his statement<sup>a</sup>. There is ample evidence to support all that he says.

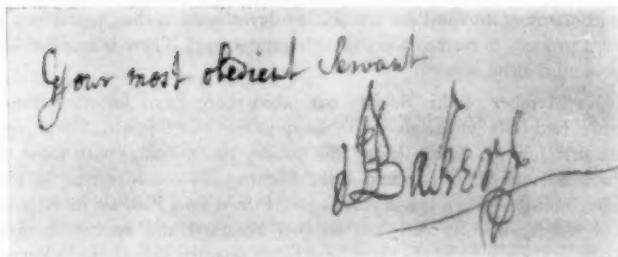
No Member of this Society has taken more Pains for its Service, or more faithfully endeavoured to support it than Myself. I was one of the first few who met (before this Society had a Being) with those noble Patriots Lord Folkstone and Lord Romney, to consider how to give it a Beginning.—When it was just begun, I drew up a Plan for its Regulation and Government, which was so well accepted and approved, that on Account thereof I had the Honour of being unanimously elected a Perpetual Member. This Plan was several Times printed and given to all the Members; and on this Plan, without any other Rules and Orders, the Society carried on its Business happily for some Years, with the highest Reputation, with the utmost Harmony and Quiet. For above a Year I was

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your Volunteer-Secretary, took the Minutes at every Meeting, and with my own Hand transcribed them fairly against the succeeding one. From the very Beginning I have diligently attended to the Payments and Arrears of all your Members, and have kept an exact Account thereof, which I dare affirm has saved and acquired to the Society some Hundreds of Pounds.



*Henry Baker, F.R.S., and, below, his  
signature (from the letter quoted here)*



At the Expence of much Pains and Time from more agreeable Amusements, I have from Year to Year prepared Books after a peculiar Manner, which shew immediately the Arrears or Payments of each Member from his first Election: and I am very certain, no Member besides myself knows,

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or can know, the true State of the Finances of this Society. At the Election of Officers, and on Ballots, when none can vote till their Arrears are paid, these Books of mine have been of singular Service. Mr. Box your Collector is, I am fully perswaded, a very honest Man: but even with the greatest Care, amongst such Numbers of Payments Mistakes will sometimes happen, and want to be set right: and I can plainly demonstrate, that without such Check as mine, some future Collector with less Honesty, might easily pocket 200*£*, a Year, without any Danger of Discovery.

All this I have done in private, without the least Ostentation, and even unknown to most of your Members: nor ever expecting the least Advantage from my trouble, not even the receiving Thanks. The internal Satisfaction of doing Good has been to me a sufficient Reward.

This is truly a moving recital, but Henry Baker's devotion to the Society is by no means without parallel, and if I may be permitted to say so, his spirit lives on to-day—though fortunately it is no longer necessary for members of the Society to write the Minutes or keep the accounts!

Besides the 'old faithfuls' like Baker upon whom more than anyone the Society has always depended for its general policy, its continuity, and sometimes for its very existence, there have always been distinguished men who have delighted to help it in its work whenever they were free to do so. One such was Benjamin Franklin. While he was living here in England, Franklin acted as chairman of the Committee of Colonies and Trade (the forerunner of our present Commonwealth Section), and in America he was an active correspondent, suggesting new activities which the Society might undertake there and recommending candidates for its awards. Here is part of the letter<sup>4</sup> which Franklin wrote to the Society in November, 1755, on receiving particulars of its work. The original of this letter never reached the Society, probably because the ship carrying it was captured or sunk by the French, so Franklin sent a copy, with a brief covering note, six months later. On receipt of this letter he was formally elected an honorary corresponding member on 1st September, 1756.

Philad<sup>a</sup>. Novr. 27 1755.

I have just received your very obliging Favour of the 13th September last; and as this Ship sails immediately, have little more time than to thank you cordially for communicating to me the Papers relating to your most laudable Undertaking, and to assure you, that I should esteem the being admitted into such a Society as a corresponding Member, a very great Honour, which I should be glad I could in the least deserve, by promoting in any Degree so useful an Institution. But tho' you do not require your Correspondents to bear any part of your Expence, you will I hope permit me to throw my Mite into your Fund, and accept of 20 Guineas I purpose to send you shortly, to be apply'd in Premiums for some improvement *in Britain*, as a grateful, tho' small, Return for your most kind and generous intentions of Encouraging Improvements *in America*. . . . Never

be discouraged by any Apprehension that Arts are come to such Perfection in England, as to be incapable of farther Improvement. As yet, the Quantity of Human Knowledge bears no Proportion to the Quantity of Human Ignorance. . . .



*Benjamin Franklin and, below, his signature (from the letter quoted in this paper)*

*You most obedient  
humble Servt  
B Franklin,*

You will greatly oblige me by the Communication of the Inventions and Improvements you mention. And as it is a Maxim in Commerce, That

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there is no Trade without Returns, I shall be always endeavouring to ballance Accounts with you, tho' probably never able to accomplish it.

I am, Sir,  
Your most obedient humble Servant,  
B. FRANKLIN

It is interesting to compare with this, Franklin's earliest letter to the Society, the letter<sup>5</sup> which he wrote to Samuel More, its Secretary, over thirty years later, in which he comments on his voluntary gift of twenty guineas, at that time the life composition fee applying to an ordinary member resident in the United Kingdom. The letter shows that political changes in no way affected his affection for the English Society he had joined in his young days:

I see with pleasure in the public prints, that our Society is still kept up and flourishes. I was an early member; for when Mr. Shipley sent me a list of the subscribers, they were but seventy; and though I had no expectation then of ever going to England, and acting with them, I sent a contribution of twenty guineas; in consideration of which the Society were afterwards pleased to consider me a member.

The purpose of the fund to which Franklin referred, and round which the Society was formed, was to provide for the offer of premiums which, by encouraging useful activity on the part of a number of candidates, could produce benefits far more valuable than the amount offered. The premiums took the form either of cash prizes or of medals, or of both, according to circumstances. Medals were offered when it was felt that those whom it was hoped to encourage would be more attracted by the hope of gaining an honour than a small amount of cash. Hence the following extract from an unsigned letter<sup>6</sup> addressed to the President in 1759:

All Honours, decreed by the deliberate Voices of a Thousand British Nobility and Gentlemen, may justly be consider'd as Honours of the highest Order. . . . And if in the freest Nation on Earth, a Thousand or more Men of Honour & Property shou'd form themselves into a Society for promoting all those Arts, that tend to the Welfare of their Country, by decreeing Rewards & Honours to all that truly merit them, The more conspicuous those Honours are made, the more honourable they will be; and of Consequence, The Donors will be more sparing in conferring them and the People of Talents and Merit will be more emulous to acquire them.

It is therefore humbly proposed that this Society decrees their Gold Medal to be worn about the Neck, with a scarlet Ribband and their Silver one with a Pale Blue; And that those Persons of Virtue & Merit, who obtain them, will consider how highly estimable that Honour must be, which is decreed by the disinterested Votes of Free Men, the greatest Number & Worth since the Senate and People of Rome.

Among the many Illustrious Persons whom Princes have distinguish'd by shining Marks & various coloured Ribbands, it is suspected that there have been several who affected these Ornaments, merely as pretty additions to their Dress, as the Merits by which they obtained them, were never heard of withoutside the Cabinet. But the Honours conferred by this Illustrious Society, whose Fame is already spread over the World, can never be Equivocal, since the particular Merit, for which they are granted, will always be expressed in Letters Patent on the Medal itself.

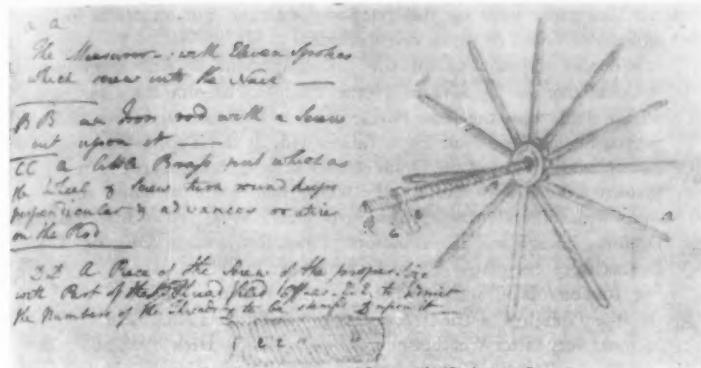
The consideration of the offering and granting of these awards was the main activity of the Society at its meetings for many years, and the minute care with which each entry and claim was examined was quite remarkable. The most stringent and carefully controlled tests were invariably required, so that it often took a considerable time to reach a decision. This must certainly have been trying to the candidates. One of them, for example, who had invented a new type of horizontal windmill, wrote to say that 'the great deliberation that most Venerable Society . . . took in Writing made mee dispair of receiving any Encouragement and therefore I Broke the Model with a resolution to bury it as thinking that Divine providence had not appointed me for the Ushering in of so Usefull an invention'.<sup>7</sup> Another, less patient but equally philosophic, complained after waiting for only a fortnight: 'I have entertained the most Sanguin hopes that Curiosity would have Induced some of the worthy members of y' Society to have sent me an Ans<sup>r</sup> for an Explaination. But I find the hopes of Man is vain, like the Fleeting Joys of this transitory World that passes away and is no more seen'.<sup>8</sup>

Sometimes, I am afraid, the delay was due not to the Society's deliberation and care, but to its officials' lack of care, as happened with the judging of the 'Perambulator' invented by Richard Lovell Edgeworth, the friend of Erasmus Darwin. This 'Perambulator', by the way, was not a carriage for young children, but an instrument for measuring distances. It consisted of a hub and spokes—a rimless wheel as it were—measuring a pole in circumference, which was pushed along the road, and its revolutions were recorded by means of a screw-thread. Let Edgeworth himself tell you what happened, in a letter<sup>9</sup> written in March, 1767, when the writer, by the way, was only twenty-three:

Hare Hatch by the Maidenhead Bag Berks. 22nd March 1767.

Sir,

I had the honour of your Letter, and am sorry to find that the Society have defer'd the confirming the Resolutions of their Committee—When I first shew'd the Perambulator to the Committee they desired a Tryal; and that I might attend. I did so; and at the hazard of my Life, having then a violent sore throat; I came Up to London on purpose & walked with the Perambulator in most exceedingly deep & dirty roads on a wet & cold day—The Tryal answer'd my expectations and satisfied the Committee, who were so good as to resolve unanimously that I deserved the



R. L. Edgeworth's drawing of his Perambulator  
(attached to his letter quoted on this page)

Gold Medal of the Society. Part of the Machine was lost by the Porter of the Society and I find by your Letter that my reward is deferr'd 'till I get another made—Unavoidable necessity detains me in the Country for some weeks and when I can get up to Town, I shall be detained a great while by the tediousness of the Workmen in London; so that I shall have no hopes of getting my Perambulator ready this year whilst the Society do Business—I give my honour that when I do come to town I will procure the Society one of those machines made in the best manner—but I hope they will be so good in the mean time as to confirm to me my reward—and not put it off till another year shall elapse. . . . I beg Sir that you will communicate this Letter to the Society & that you will believe me to be

S<sup>r</sup>. your obliged humble Ser<sup>t</sup>

RICH<sup>D</sup>. LOVELL EDGEWORTH

I am glad to be able to tell you that the award of the medal was confirmed by the Society the very next month, but unfortunately they decided that it should be of silver, not gold.

The Society's insistence on trials sometimes involved others besides the candidates and the investigating committees in arduous and uncomfortable experiences. In appropriate cases it called for local trials attested by the dignitaries of the candidate's neighbourhood before it would itself accept and investigate a submission. Here, for example, is a certificate<sup>10</sup> relating to a new drain plough, an implement the Society were very keen to improve in connection with their steady encouragement of land reclamation. The weather prevailing when I

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prepared this paper gave me full sympathy with the 'inhabitants of Fulforth' who signed—or failed to sign—this document!

Whereas the Society for the Encouragement of Arts Manufactures & Commerce, having advertis'd for a "Plough of the simplest Construction, which shall, with the least Force, cut a new Drain One Foot in Depth perpendicular, One Foot Eight Inches wide at the Top, & Ten Inches at Bottom; both Sides of the Drain equally sloping, & the Earth to be equally thrown out on both Sides": We whose names are hereunto subscrib'd were with others present, this 23rd Decr. 1765, when Mr. Randall's Draining Plough was drawn by four Horses & two oxen, & thereby several Drains were cut of the above Dimensions.

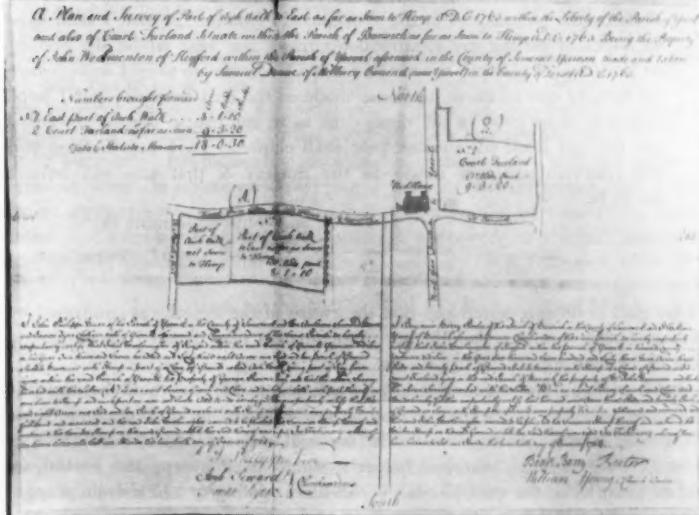
Inhabitants of Fulforth where  
the Plough was tried; & as it  
was very bitter Weather many  
Persons left the Ground before  
the Plough had gone all her  
Bouts, & the Rest could not  
hold the Pen in their Hands  
in the Field.

William Godson  
xThomas Hick Senr.  
Thos. Hick  
Thomas Nash  
Geo. Wilson  
xJo. Godson his mark  
Thomas Garnet

Inhabitants of York { George Jennings  
John Pentith  
Samuel Lund

A Plan and Survey of Part of such Field as layt as far as known to Henry D. C. 1763 within the Liberty of the Parish of Westbury and also of Eastover, situated on the South side of the River Frome as far as known to Henry D. C. 1763. Being the Survey of John W. Pentith of Westbury within the County of Somerset wherein made and taken by Surveyor General of the Military Ordnance from a Plan of the same date.

Number of acres ploughed  $\frac{1}{2} \text{ Acre}$   
17 Rods of such land ... 3. 0. 0.  
2 Rods Surplus after ploughing 0. 3. 0.  
Total of such land ... 3. 3. 0.



Certificate of the production of hemp in two fields near Yeovil, 1763

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The guard books contain a large number of such certificates, relating mostly to agricultural developments of various kinds. With some types of award no certificate was necessary, as there was no reason why drawings or industrial products, for example, should not be submitted right away. One of the earliest and most successful competitions ever held by the Society was one for the design and manufacture of carpets of the Turkey type, held during the three years 1757, 1758 and 1759. Each year the first prize was won by Thomas Whitty of Axminster, and there is little doubt that these repeated awards, and the exhibition of prize-winning carpets which Whitty persuaded the Society to hold in its rooms in 1760, were among the chief reasons why the factory which he had established in 1755 at Axminster became a lasting success. They thus helped to lay one of the principal foundation stones of the modern British carpet industry. Here is the covering letter<sup>11</sup> sent by Whitty when entering for the first of these three competitions:

Axminster March 21st 1757.

My Lord,

In consequence of the advertisement of the Hon<sup>bl</sup> Society of which your Lordship is President I have herewith sent a Carpett of my own Manufacture made intirely of English materials, and by work people of my own instructing. I could have made a Carpett much finer and consequently more beautifull, but the Society proposing to Incourage making a sort which would be more generally usefull and sell in the place of Turkey Carpetts, I have confined my self in materials and fineness of work as near as I can to that sort, but in order to shew there may be great Improvements made by a little addition in price I have varied in colours & pattern. The carpett is 16 foot 3 Inches by 12 foot 9 Inches which I value at Fifteen pounds—I hope your Lordship and the Society will think my Endeavours worthy of Incouragement and Favour me with taking into Consideration the best methods of Improving the manufacture and settling it on the best Foundation for the National Interest.

I am my Lord

Your Lordships most obedient Humble Servant,

THOS. WHITTY

One of the largest branches of the Society's competitions was the one known as 'Polite Arts', which differed considerably from the others inasmuch as its object was not so much to stimulate new ideas as to foster individual development. In other words, it was largely educational, and the majority of the prizes were specifically for young people. These competitions were widely advertised and, as may be imagined, some very queer material was often submitted in response to the offers. Sometimes, however, there was something very touching as well as amusing about these entries, as in the following case:<sup>12</sup>



*Thomas Martin's drawing accompanying the letter quoted here*

Honoured Sir,

Castelridge 2 February 1760.

I troubel you with these few Lines to let you know that I am a young Man in the County of Cumberland that has a Great Incleynation to Drawing and Espesly by Copper-plates such as Birds Beasts Plants and Flowers &c. But for want of Time and Money I never got any Instructions relating to this Art of Drawing, My Father is a Liney Weaver by Trade and sels all his Goods to London, and I am one of the same Craft and Works for him Therefor I have very little time to Spend in this Curious Art of Drawing. But I am one of the Readers of the Universal Magazines of Knowledge and Pleasure and in them I have seen very Curious things such as Birds Beasts Plants and Flowers all finely Engraven in Copper and Beautyfully Coloured from Nature and in Imeytating them I take a Great Delight, for when I have any opportunity I Draw them over with pen and Ink as near as I can but I am at a great loss for a set of propper Colours, yet Nevertheless I take such as Comes Nearest.

And in Reading the Magazine for June 1759 I found a great Number of Premiums proposed by the Society for the Incouragement of Arts. Therefore I Hope it will not be taken a Miss in sending this my Specimen of the Painted finch Nutmeg plant Butterflys and the Man of the Woods. which I Desire youl take care to Get this to the Society Before the third Tuesday in February 1760 And youll greatly oblige me your

Humbel Servt,  
THOS. MARTIN JUNIOR

PS. I Desire you would send me a Letter and let me know whether

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these things have got safe to hand or no and how approve of Pray  
Excuse a Vulgar way of Inditing I being brought up in the Countrey and  
young under the age of 18.

Unfortunately, poor Tom did not quite make the grade, but in a number of notable cases, such as John Smart, Richard Cosway and Mary Moser (to name a few of the earliest only) the Society's encouragement proved to be of the greatest value, and their success in winning a prize gave them their first foothold on the ladder of fame.

Besides its previously advertised rewards, which the Society termed 'premiums', it was always ready to consider awarding what it called 'bounties' for meritorious efforts which did not comply with the terms of any particular offer. Edgeworth's 'Perambulator', already mentioned, is a case in point. But there were obvious risks about such a practice. Many people when they heard about the bounties immediately thought that they provided an easy way of getting something for nothing and that all that was necessary was to think up some wild new idea, send it to the Society and receive a cheque by return of post. This was clearly the impression of the man who wrote the following letter<sup>13</sup>:

Gentlemen,

An easy, unconfin'd, and locomotive method of going into ye sea, must be of great public utility. this method I have ye honour to send you.

Cause to be made a compleat dress of iron, from head to foot, made so as to be impervious to ye water; if ye workman should not have the art of making it close enough, sponge glued upon the openings will perfectly hinder ye entrance of ye water; the forepart of ye head-piece—stretching three inches beyond the nose, will give more than sufficient room for breathing, as anyone may be convinced, by holding his hat before his face, so that no air can get in; I have tryed it, and can easily breathe so, nothing now remains but fixing glasses before the eyes to see thro.

As it is, Gentlemen, your custom to give premiums, I ask fifteen guineas, and a pliny's Natural History in English; the book tied up in paper & corded, the money put under ye covers, and left at any house in ye Strand till called for in ye name of A.B. let me know ye house in ye Daily Advertiser without mentioning ye money in ye Advertisement.

I am,  
Gentlemen,  
With all possible respect  
Your most humble servant,  
A.B.

It is obvious that 'A.B.' knew more about the inside of an armchair (with a hat over his face!) than the inside of a diving suit, but the guard books also contain an interesting record<sup>14</sup> of genuine diving experiments carried out in Denmark with a copper suit designed by Heinrich Schultz. These trials took

place in 1760 and subsequent years before responsible witnesses, and each submersion lasted for a considerable period. I believe that they represent an important advance in the science of diving.



*The diving suit of Heinrich Schultz, 1761*

But to return for a moment to less serious matters, I should like to read you one other letter<sup>16</sup>, which I think would have appealed to Lewis Carroll.

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Worthy Gentlemen I (who am a girl, about nineteen, of poor parentage and smal Learning) have by my own Study brought to perfection an intire new Languige known to no man, and I dare presume; that it can no more be read or understood than, Lattin, French or Greek can. but I will undertake to learn any youth that can read an write the English toungue to read an speak this within the space of a year but as I am oblig:d to follow my calling day ly I am unable to make any improvement thereof unless asisted you Gentelmen. I thought it not impoper to send you a short pharagaph of this work for which purpose I have chosen the Lords prayer as follows

Eaf Rucpof bpicp ufc ik Pouaok pummebos wo cpy kulo cpy nikqsel  
telo cpy bimm wo seko ik oufcp ud ic id ik Pouaok qiao ad cpid suy eaf  
suymy wfous uks refqiao ad eaf cfodhuddod ud bo refqiao cpol cpuc  
cfodhudd uquikdc ad uks mous ad kec ikce colhcuciek wac somiaof ad  
rfel oaim ref cpiko id cpo nikqsel cpo hebof uks cpo Qmefy ref oaof uks  
oaof Ulok

if you think this a matter worth your consideration you may find me by  
directing To Elisabeth Dadswell breches maker at Rotherfeild in Susex.

We laugh at such pieces of phantasy or quackery, but unfortunately true geniuses are often laughed at just as much, or at the least receive far less than their desert. Such was the fate of John Wyatt, the inventor, with Lewis Paul, of the spinning machine. I believe that every cotton mill in the world to-day uses the rollers which were the essential feature introduced by Wyatt and Paul, yet so far from gaining a reward for a discovery which so benefited the world, Wyatt lost a large sum of money by it and in later life, like another unfortunate pioneer, John Kay, the inventor of the fly shuttle, he turned to the Society of Arts for encouragement.\*

When submitting an entry for the prizes offered by the Society in 1762 for a means of reducing friction, Wyatt took the opportunity of forwarding at the same time a manuscript folio entitled 'A Systematical Essay on the Business of Spinning'. This essay, with its accompanying drawings of the original Wyatt and Paul machine, is unfortunately lost. Had it survived, it would doubtless have thrown much light on the historical controversy regarding the respective claims of Wyatt and Paul to the major credit for the invention. Fortunately, however, Wyatt's covering letter has been preserved, and the following are those sections of it which relate to the spinning machine.† I hope that the publication of these extracts, although tantalizingly vague, may be of assistance to those acquainted with the details of the controversy.

\*The whole correspondence of the Kay family with the Society was published in the *Journal* (vol. lx. 73). See also *History of the Royal Society of Arts*, Trueman Wood (p. 259 sqq.).

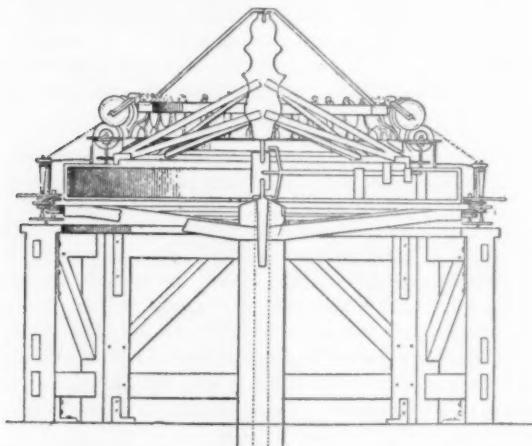
†The remainder of the letter deals with the friction of rollers, the matter, evidently, which he had previously found himself 'deficient in'. It would appear from this that overheating was a prime source of the failure of the first machine.

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Birmingham Jan. ye 4th 1762.

Tho' I do not offer myself a Candidate for the Premium, which has been proposed by the Society, for Spinning; yet there are some particulars which have been very expensive to me, that are highly relative to the Improvement thereof, and may well deserve the Notice of your Society.

This Scheme cost me, about 20 Years ago, a Thousand Pounds, & an Absolute Ruin; yet I wou'd beg leave to say, & hope I am able to prove, pretty clearly, that the Nation shared, tho' less sensibly, in my then Misfortunes; not through the invalidity of the Project, but the disingenuity of a Projector, with whom I was then unhappily connected.



*Paul's spinning machine, 1758. (From Usher's Industrial History of England, 1921)*

However, as I may claim the compiling of the Work, upon which the Experiments were made at Birmingham, from which the Observations & Calculations, as will appear in my Manuscript Pages, were drawn; purely for the sake of Truth, & a clear understanding, of the Value, of the Undertaking; am willing to hope, that such an Essay, (however imperfect, or ineligent the Expressions or Estimations may be) will prove as truly Beneficial to the purposes of your Noble Society, as a Model made by the most Ingenious Workman.

I must confess, it was pen'd by way of amusement in a Time of Distress; when the hope of my own Interest had been so strangely subverted, that scarce a glimmering remain'd, and ever since has lain by me, an unexam'd & useless Script.

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Tho' my Expectation at that Time was reduced to little more a Shadow, I have never yet been able, totally to divest myself, of that Shadow; and a mere possibility of my ever being concern'd again, in that Project, then excited me, to furnish myself with such Ideas, as I had before found myself deficient in; but had then no Thoughts of publishing, or parting with them.

But as I have some Years ago been inform'd, by an Authority which I could not Question, that the Project had been carried, both into Germany & Italy; it may be the more necessary for England to examine, and prove its Utility; hence may the Widows mite represent these my little Endeavors.

There is one further element of great interest in these guard books to which I must draw your attention before I close, and that is the large number of letters which come from overseas. The Society obtained an international status with great rapidity. Indeed, a notice of its birth appeared in a Dutch newspaper some two months before the happy event took place, and as soon as it was properly constituted the Society began to elect corresponding members, and to establish relations with overseas bodies of a kindred nature. It corresponded, for example, with local societies in a number of cities in France and Switzerland, and was naturally friendly with several new societies which were established in Europe and America as a result of its own success. I am glad to say that among those presenting addresses of congratulation at our bicentenary next month will be the Presidents of two such societies, the Patriotische Gesellschaft established in Hamburg in 1765, from whose founder the guard books preserve several letters of warm filial recognition, and the Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale, founded by Napoleon in 1801 on the model of the Society of Arts. I am now going to read you extracts from a letter<sup>17</sup> from another of our offspring established in New York about 1765. By that time the Society of Arts had been active for ten years in offering premiums for the promotion of new products in the American colonies, and had met with considerable success in its efforts to encourage the production of silk and potash.

New York 30th March 1765.

Sir,

We flatter ourselves that We Cannot better excuse the present Liberty than by informing You that a Society has been erected in this City in imitation of your most worthy and Laudable Institution—And when We Consider the great Instances of a diffusive Generosity Consisting in the many Premiums Your Society has published for America We Cannot but flatter Ourselves that a Scheme Calculated to promote those Advantages which are Some of the Objects of your Institution will from your Body receive all proper Encouragement.

In this View, We Who have the Honour of being appointed a Committee for Correspondences have received It in particular Charge from our Society to request the favour of a Communication with You on those

Subjects wherein the kind Assistances of your more experienced Body may advance the good purposes of our Institution. . . .

Our Scheme therefore is this; to encourage such manufactures as will not interfere with those of England and to promote such Growths and Productions as may best answer for Returns to Great Britain . . . this Cannot we Conceive be better Supported than by a Consideration of the Premiums We have offered, which We submit to the Superior Judgement of your Body; and which in many Instances We flatter Ourselves will appear Subservient to your more important Plan. . . .

Our present truly deplorable State is an Object worthy of the Common Concern. All our former Avenues of Trade, and the Infliction of Cash are now blocked up, and with the Same Wants which We had lately Abilities to gratify, We are now left under an absolute Impossibility of paying for Necessaries while the undiminishing Importation of British Manufactures must speedily sink us into an utter Inability to pay our Debts, and in this View with our Ruin is necessarily Connected a heavy Loss to our Mother Country. . . .

To Peter Templeton, Esqr.

Jas. Duane  
Wm. Smith, Jnr.  
Walr. Rutherford  
Jno. Morin Scott

And now I must read part of one out of many informative letters which the Society received from individual corresponding members. It is from Dr. James Mounsey, a Scots doctor in attendance on the Czar of Russia, who became a corresponding member in 1755. Like many of the letters from these correspondents it was addressed to a friend for transmission to the Society. In this case the friend was Henry Baker, and the copy<sup>18</sup> we have is in Baker's familiar handwriting.

Part of a Letter from Dr. James Mounsey, a corresponding Member of this Society, residing at Mosco, to Mr. Henry Baker.

Dated Moaco Novr. 7th 1759

Communicated by Mr. Baker

The Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. I find makes a wonderful Progress which in Time must be of infinite Benefit to the Nation. English Manufactures and Works of all Sorts are looked upon by all Nations where I have been to be the best and most finished: yet I have often seen Goods of an inferior Quality of other Nations saleable, whilst English Goods have lain without a Market. The Cause of this comes from Faults both of the Artist and of the Trader. The English Artist when he has brought a Piece of Work to the greatest Perfection in Fitness and Convenience for the use it is designed, he labours on in the same identical Way, spending

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often much Time and Pains on Parts little observed by the generality of Buyers. And such Wares may be esteemed by Philosophers, but Variety pleases Mankind in general. Even Absurdities artfully introduced delight the Mind fatigued with a Repetition of the same Thing however just.

The Encouragement and Measures of the Society will infallibly improve the Artist: his Fancy will be employed in Invention, from which a pleasing Variety will be produced, which he will find of more Service than labouring at minute Niceties regarded by very few: his Goods will be then lower in Price but higher in Fashion, which will always insure a market.

But supposing the Fault of the Artist removed, there is still a great Deficiency of People in the mercantile Way in foreign countries proper for the Encouragement of British Manufactures. Most Merchants who settle in Factories abroad, having been brought up in Houses of great Trade, the Nature of the Business they apply themselves to is very different from what I have mentioned; and it is a prevailing Fault of others, who have been brought up in a lower Way to affect to be the *Grand Marchand*, whereby they fail to make their own Fortunes, and are very little useful to their Country. The French on the other Hand employ proper People, who study the Genius Fancy and Humour of the Nations where they are, and furnish the Markets, I may say monthly, with something in a new Taste, and so dispose of immense Quantities of meer Trifles and flimsy Things to their own great Advantage and that of their Nation, whilst British Goods are dear, become unfashionable, and lye unsold.

As these are Objects of the Society's Care, what I have said may perhaps be not unworthy of their Consideration. Proper Consuls, and some young brisk intelligent Lads sent under their Protection, might I think give constant Intelligence how to suit British Manufactures to foreign Markets.

The letters received by the Society from overseas bear testimony to the high reputation which it quickly won for itself in many parts of the world. The last letter I have to read to you is an indication of public esteem at home. It was written by the Mayor of Liverpool in consequence of a pamphlet issued privately in 1765 by Edward Bridgen, a member of the Society, under the title of 'A short account of the great benefits which have already arisen to the public by means of the Society instituted in London for the encouragement of arts, manufactures and commerce'. The purpose of this pamphlet was to appeal for greater financial support of the Society's work, and here<sup>19</sup> is one of its results.

Liverpoole 5. July 1765.

Sir,

A Pamphlet intituled a Short Account of the great Benefits &c being lately sent to me as Mayor of this Corporation, I read it with particular attention, and was highly pleas'd to observe how laudably and usefully your Society has been engaged, ever since its first institution, in promoting the welfare & Trade of this Nation and it's Colonys.

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I obsirved in the Postscript that you had hitherto received not the least donation or grant from any of the Public-bodies or Corporations it gave me a very singular pleasure to recommend an institution I so highly approve to our Corporate-body, and I have the further Satisfaction to acquaint you, that at our Council the 3rd inst:, I was desired to remit One Hundred Pounds to you, for the use of the Society., by this post I direct my friends Messrs. Sargent Aufrere & C<sup>o</sup> in London to pay the same whenever it is called for; by one that is authorised by the Society to receive the same, and have the honour to be, with best wishes that your truly laudable Endeavours may continue to be crown'd with the desired success.

Sir, Your most obt. Humble Servt.,

JOHN TARLETON

To the Secretary of the Society for the  
Encouragement of Arts Manufactures & Commerce.

The Society has always prided itself on its complete independence of public funds, but such a spontaneous and unconditional gift on the part of a civic authority is, I feel, a solid indication of the value which was attached to its work at that time by the public at large. From its own members likewise it inspired a free giving of time and money, without any expectation of return. They were actuated by the spirit expressed by Henry Baker in the letter I quoted above, and by another correspondent who, referring to an agricultural implement recently invented by himself, said<sup>20</sup>: 'Whether I shall get any Thing for my Trouble and Expence . . . I know not, . . . but this I know, that I shall enjoy the hart-felt Satisfaction of contributing to the Prosperity of my Country in general, and that of every honest industrious Man in particular . . . to see Old England once more a Land of Plenty will make me the happiest Man in it though I get but Bread and Cheese, and wear a thread-bare Coat as long as I live'.

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1. VI 94.	10. X 66.
2. Loose letter in Society's possession.	11. III 78.
3. XII 120.	12. IV 95.
4. I 126.	13. IX 76.
5. <i>The Private Correspondence of Benjamin Franklin</i> . Published by William Temple Franklin. London, Henry Colburn, 1817, vol. 1 p. 262.	14. VII 99.
6. IV 53.	15. IX 38.
7. XI unnumbered letter at end.	16. IX 27.
8. IV 104.	17. IX 27.
9. XII 54.	18. IX unnumbered, the last letter.
	20. X 37.

#### DISCUSSION

MR. M. W. L. KITSON: I should like to ask the speaker, if I may, one or two details about the premiums awarded to artists in particular. Could he perhaps tell me whether they were awarded annually, just one gold medal and one silver medal every year, and whether all the artists actually competed in a public competition or were awarded the medals just on merit because the Society thought that such and such an artist was good in that year?

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THE LECTURER: The Society offered a very large number of prizes for a great many years, annually, and it was a gigantic competition, with sometimes fifty or sixty classes in this one subject of Polite Arts alone. In each of the classes there was some quite specific requirement. It might be with regard to age, to the medium or to the subject, and there were usually first, second and third prizes. They were all judged as competition entries.

MR. V. HOWLETT: Was Paul, the partner of Wyatt, the man who later became a partner of Boulton and I believe the originator of the present firm of Boulton, Paul, Ltd.?

THE LECTURER: No. Wyatt worked in Matthew Boulton's Soho foundry, I know, on the collapse of this experiment with the spinning machine, but I do not think that Paul had any connections with them.

THE CHAIRMAN: I should just like to ask one question myself. It relates to the secession of the American Colonies. Is there anything in the records of the Society which illustrates the sort of attitude which the Society took up towards the Declaration of Independence? I understand that, during the earlier years of the Society, all that was done overseas was done for the American Colonies, and after their Independence the cash premiums and other awards went chiefly to the West Indies. Is there anything to cover that gap, which reflects the attitude of the Society?

THE LECTURER: I think the attitude of the Society was that it would have continued to make efforts for the benefit of the United States, as they then became, had it been confident of a response. In fact, one or two of the awards which were offered were continued for a year or so after 1776, but no entries were sent in, and it was simply by force of circumstances that the Society transferred its attentions to the West Indies. But I can see no indication that the Society in any way ceased to be willing to help the American Colonies, and I think the attitude of Benjamin Franklin in that later letter which I quoted to you shows that that was appreciated.

THE CHAIRMAN: I should now like to put it to the meeting that we pass a very hearty vote of thanks indeed to our lecturer this afternoon. And I do so on two counts: first of all that he has brought out very clearly the public spirit which animated, not only the formation of this Society, but also the work which it has ever since carried out. It was public spirit, neither more nor less, which inspired the selection of subjects, the collections, offers and distribution of the funds in premiums and awards. Every time it was in respect of some improvement, some advance which would go to strengthen and support the good life of the peoples of this country and Empire.

On the second count, Mr. Luckhurst has drawn attention to things which are personal and intimate. Now those are the sort of things which, more than anything else perhaps, illustrate the day to day life of a nation. I was reading just the other day a very interesting book which has been written by an American Fellow of this Society, Miss Marchette Chute, her life of *Ben Jonson of Westminster*. That book illustrates my point very clearly. Just because so much of it is personal and intimate, it succeeds in bringing the reader into close touch with the life of Ben Jonson's day. That is exactly what our lecturer has succeeded in doing in his admirable paper on the early years of your Society. May I ask you to join me in a very hearty vote of thanks indeed to Mr. Luckhurst?

*The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, and the meeting then ended.*

## GENERAL NOTES

## DAILY MAIL IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION

The décor of this year's Ideal Home Exhibition has, as its central theme, large galloping mythological horses, slung from the ceiling, and putting us in mind of more h.p. in the home perhaps, or caravans to get out of it—a special and very magnificent section is devoted to caravans. To one visitor, at least, horses and caravans brought associations with Derby Day, though an indoor one, without the glamour and chance of a win. But there is the same spirit of family outing, father and mother and children, the crowds, noise, bustle and the litter. Indeed it seems a little ironic to see so many appliances for picking up dirt being daintily demonstrated on their stands with a little artificial sprinkling of dust when, only a few inches away, in the gangways, is enough rubbish to give even the hardiest vacuum cleaner indigestion. Judging by the crowds, this year's Exhibition is as attractive as ever and the most popular items are still the samples. Not only the free ones; queues formed for them even when they had to be paid for, and the same article could be much more conveniently bought outside in the shops. Perhaps it is the impulse to take home a souvenir that overcomes us all on these occasions.

What with the crowds and the difficulty of locating any particular category because the stands are not numbered consecutively, (so the catalogue is but little help, nor is there much guidance from signposts), most visitors tend to drift with the tide, thus following the line of least resistance. There is so much to see, that no one can hope to cover more than a fraction. This particular visitor was swept onwards from the display of diamonds (interesting mainly for what the catalogue says they are worth) to the cookers and refrigerators. This, the more functional aspect of the home, is probably what the Exhibition is most useful in showing and the one most worth concentrating on. It is symbolized by a life-size model of Mr. Philip Harben, cooking.

For all the ingenuity displayed in cookers of various shapes and sizes, the overall impression is a little disappointing. Take cleaning, for instance. Is it really so difficult to devise a cooker at reasonable cost with an easily accessible oven top? Incidentally, why can it only be on the more expensive types that the top of the stove itself can be easily shifted? Demonstrators no doubt never let anything boil over, but in the ordinary household it happens often enough. However, it is the top of the oven, as cookers are at present devised, that is so inconvenient to clean. To get at it means practically standing on one's head, kneeling on the floor and scrabbling in the dark. The explanation that the more patient demonstrator vouchsafes is that a movable oven top would cost more and take up space. But is not a little sacrifice of space worth-while to reduce the burden of this particular domestic chore? It is also hard to clean behind the cooker and the fridge that is not a built-in fitment. Could they not all be movable, perhaps on runners or wheels? One firm, Messrs. Jackson's, were most commendably experimenting with this, but the usual principle seems to be that it is the cleaning apparatus that should be adaptable, flexible mops and the like. Is not this the wrong way round? The same applies to much of the furniture; it is not flush with the floor, but not high enough off it to get underneath with ease. And could not easily damaged parts be more freely replaceable? It is so easy to chip the enamel long before we can afford an entirely new stove again. Then there is always the question of storage space in kitchen equipment. Perhaps we humans are not sufficiently standardized in height and reach for perfection, but there still seems too little room and too much stooping and stretching.

Upstairs are the vacuum and other cleaning appliances. Here, the problem has always been whether it is worth the time and fiddling involved in taking off and changing the various special fittings supplied for getting at the more cunningly

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lodged dirt, or whether it is not quicker to stick to the old-fashioned brush and duster. Thought has certainly been devoted to this problem; exchanging fitments has been much simplified. A welcome newcomer to the domestic market in this field are Messrs. Fillery, whom we have hitherto only heard about as exporters, with a machine that will suck and scrub and polish. Perhaps it is captious to cavil at generosity, but maybe the extra fitments are getting too complicated—the paint-sprayers, for instance, that most firms now supply for working with the vacuum cleaner, would seem to require, to be really effective, a stronger motor than the cleaner needs. The public, however, appeared well pleased with this extra device, which goes to show how very varied is the range of skills now expected of the housewife: not merely cleaning but redecorating too. Labour saving devices may yet lead us on to taking over more labour.

As always in this huge Exhibition, it is the little gadgets that most delight and that we all come away with; the golden cloth for scouring saucepans without broken fingernails, the automatic needle threader, a boon to the elderly, the nippers for sealing the half-empty gingerbeer bottle and a host of other pieces of ingenuity far too numerous even to mention.

On the main front, in the battle against dirt, the struggle to save time and escape fatigue, to keep down costs and make the best possible use of little space, progress is less spectacular. There is still plenty of room for more imagination and ingenuity. Perhaps we are still in a transitional stage, moving out of a period of shortages, and the customer, predominantly the housewife, is still too timid to insist that her needs be studied as carefully as, say, those of the owner of a motor-car.

ENID MARK

O B I T U A R Y

MR. CHARLES NICHOLSON, R.D.I.

We record with regret the death, on 27th February, of Charles Ernest Nicholson, O.B.E., R.D.I., Chairman of the shipbuilding firm of Camper & Nicholson's, Ltd.

Mr. Nicholson, who was born in 1868, began working at his father's yacht-building yard at the age of 12, and saw his first design, the *Lucifer*, launched when he was 18, but his first successes came some years later with the *Gareth* and the *Daria*. By the First World War he was at the head of the profession and in 1914 he designed his first challenger for the America's Cup, *Shamrock IV*. A later challenger, the *Endeavour*, built in 1934, has been called the most beautiful racing yacht ever built and was, with *Shamrock IV*, the yacht which came nearest success in this challenge since 1851. Mr. Nicholson also designed many motor yachts, and his first design, the *Pioneer*, was an important factor in the decline of the large steam yacht. The largest motor yacht built in this country, the *Philante*, was also designed by him in 1937 and is now the Norwegian Royal Yacht.

Mr. Nicholson was the first man to be made an Honorary Freeman of Gosport, and he was appointed a Royal Designer for Industry in 1944. He always took a particular pride in this distinction, and never failed to attend the functions of the Faculty whenever it was possible for him to do so.

N O T E S   O N   B O O K S

WINE GROWING IN ENGLAND. By George Ordish. Rupert Hart-Davis, 1954. 7s 6d

The late Oliver Stanley, speaking at a dinner to launch some Commonwealth wines on the United Kingdom market, is alleged to have affirmed 'Patriotism is not enough: there must be no bitterness'. Mr. Ordish's book bears this well in mind. He is not concerned merely to demonstrate, as he does with a wealth of authorities cited, that the vine has from time immemorial been successfully grown on the English side of

the Channel. He shows effectively that it is within the competence of any horticulturally minded person living in the south of England or the Midlands (and probably further north) to produce an eminently drinkable wine from his own grapes, the claret type perhaps presenting the fewest technical difficulties to the amateur wine-maker.

In these days of high taxation and low purchasing power the appearance of this book is most timely. (On its appearance in another sense Mr. Hart-Davis is most warmly to be congratulated: it is a little masterpiece of binding, type, lay-out and illustration.) There can be no doubt—except in the mind of the total abstinence fanatic—that a decline in the habit of wine drinking in a community is a weakening of a valuable civilizing influence. Your reviewer remembers dining one Sunday evening in a modest restaurant in a small French town. Enter *paterfamilias*, possibly the local corn merchant. The menu was soon chosen. There ensued a prolonged conference on vintages with the restaurant proprietor with a cursory reference to the son of the family (*Madame* and the other children being of the sex which accepts rather than chooses a wine). Then the Bottle—I am sure *Monsieur* spelt it in his mind with a capital—appeared. The effect of its broaching upon the conversation and the bearing of the family—nay upon the whole style of the proceedings—lifted that meal out of the category of a mere keeping of body and soul together, as achieved by their social equivalents in an English teashop, into a piece of stimulating and mellowing ritual. If Mr. Ordish's eminently practical book, based on fifteen years' experience at his home in Kent, can bring similar delights within the reach of thousands who cannot afford imported wines, he may rank himself as one of our social as well as horticultural educators.

To review a book on wine with the pen instead of with the palate is perhaps a little like a mere pressing of one's nose to the sweetshop window, but it is good to learn from the concluding paragraphs of the book that wine-tasters for the British Broadcasting Corporation have found that Mr. Ordish turns the press as well as he turns a phrase.

Appendix One, with its bibliography and notes on wines in England from Roman times, forms a scholarly appendix to the main text, which is as down-to-earth as any would-be wine grower could require. Varieties, soil, manuring and pruning are all clearly and helpfully dealt with, as are the scientific aspects of fermenting, pressing and bottling.

Is it carping criticism to lament an occasional looseness of expression, as occurs on page 29, where the author says that Brandt is 'by far' the best variety under his conditions, followed 'closely' by Gamay Hatif?

This is a notable addition to Mr. Hart-Davis's Countryman Library. At the price your wine merchant would charge you for a single bottle of *vin ordinaire* it is a good investment indeed.

A. R. N. R.

#### SHORT NOTES ON OTHER BOOKS

**A SHORT DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE.** By Dora Ware and Betty Beatty. London, George Allen & Unwin, 1953. 12s 6d

This is the third edition, revised and enlarged, of a dictionary first published in 1944. The terms defined include some used in building; some points are further illustrated by line drawings.

**ART TEACHING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.** By Edith C. Walton. Batsford, 1953. 16s

This is a most detailed and practical book on art teaching, in which the author describes her own experience and the methods of instruction she developed while working in an industrial town, and on this basis constructs a handbook full of illuminating advice to others with the same task.

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PUBLIC PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT. By William G. Torpey. New York, Van Nostrand Company; London, Macmillan, 1953. 37s 6d

The American data on which this book is based make it less immediately applicable to British Civil Service conditions; but it contains much experienced advice on the management of offices and their staff which should be useful in any sort of employment.

THE BRUDENELLS OF DEENE. By Joan Wake. London, Cassell, 1953. 21s

This history of the Brudenells, starting in the fourteenth century, records the public and private lives of the Earls of Cardigan, including the 7th Earl, who commanded the Light Brigade in the Crimean War, and of their forbears and families, to the present day.

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## FROM THE JOURNAL OF 1854

VOLUME II. 17th March, 1854

The following extract is an early announcement of the building of the s.s. Great Eastern, from Brunel's designs, by John Scott Russell, the noted naval architect, who was Secretary of the Society from 1845 to 1850.

MONSTER STEAM SHIP.—The ways for an immense screw and paddle-wheel steamer have just been commenced at Messrs. Scott Russell's. The principle of her construction will be similar to that of the Britannia tubular bridge.

## Some Activities of Other Societies and Organizations

## MEETINGS

MON. 22 MAR. Anglo-Israel Association, at the Royal Society of Arts, W.C.2. 6 p.m. R. H. S. Cressman : *Israel in the Middle East*.

Electrical Engineers, Institution of, Savoy Place, W.C.2. 5.30 p.m. C. J. Hirsch : *Colour Television*.

Geographical Society, Royal, S.W.7. 5 p.m. J. F. M. Middleton : *Oxford University Expedition to Uganda*.

TUES. 23 MAR. British Architects, Royal Institute of, 66 Portland Place, W.I. 6 p.m. H. L. Gloga and D. L. Medd : *Changing Ideas on Colour with some Technical Implications*.

Civil Engineers, Institution of, Great George Street, S.W.1. 5.30 p.m. O. A. Kerensky and K. E. Hyatt : *Design and Construction of Rama VI, Surat, and Bandara Bridges in Thailand*.

Electrical Engineers, Institution of, Savoy Place, W.C.2. 6 p.m. F. A. Meier : *An Experimental and Theoretical Approach to the Teaching of Electromagnetism using the Rationalized M.K.S. System of Units*.

International Affairs, Royal Institute of, Chatham House, 10 St. James's Square, S.W.1. 1.30 p.m. K. E. Robinson : *Another View of the End of Empire : The French West Indies*.

WED. 24 MAR. Chadwick Trust, at the Museum Lecture Theatre, Park Row, Leeds, 1. 7.30 p.m. S. E. Finer : *Edwin Chadwick and the Conquest of Disease 1843-1953*.

Electrical Engineers, Institution of, Savoy Place, W.C.2. 5.30 p.m. H. Von Bertele : *Cathodes-Spot Performance Phases and Control of Mass Transfer in Vapour-Discharge Devices*.

Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, S.W.7. 6.15 p.m. John Irwin : *The Cashmere Shawl and Its Influence*.

Wool Education Society, at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, W.I. 7 p.m. Sir John Lienhop : *Growing Wool in Victoria*.

THURS. 25 MAR. Chemical Society, at Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.I. 7.30 p.m. Professor H. J. Emelius : *Organometallic Compounds Containing Fluorocarbon Radicals*.

Electrical Engineers, Institution of, Savoy Place, W.C.2. 5.30 p.m. F. L. Lawton : *The Kenesco Hydro-Electric Development and Associated Kilimanjaro Aluminium-Reduction Works*.

Engineers, Society of, 17 Victoria Street, S.W.1. 6 p.m. E. C. Ashcroft : *An Australian in London*.

FRI. 26 MAR. Physical Society, at the Science Museum, S.W.7. 5 p.m. Sir Geoffrey Taylor : *Diffusion and Mass Transport in Tubes*.

MON. 29 MAR. Imperial Institute, South Kensington, S.W.7. 5.45 p.m. Kenneth Bradley : *The District Officer in Africa*.

TUES. 30 MAR. Anthropological Institute, Royal, at the Royal Society of Arts, W.C.2. 2.30 p.m. F. G. Payne : *Plough in Britain*.

Civil Engineers, Institution of, Great George Street, S.W.1. 5.30 p.m. A. R. Macrae and A. F. Smith : *Construction of a New Runway at Amman, Jordan*.

International Affairs, Royal Institute of, Chatham House, 10 St. James's Square, S.W.1. 1.30 p.m. Lord Birdwood : *The International Implications of U.S. Aid to Pakistan*.

Manchester Geographical Society, 16 St. Mary's Parsonage, Manchester, 3. 6.30 p.m. Harry Milligan : *Upland and Fenland Through Rutland, etc.*

WED. 31 MAR. British Kinematograph Society, at G.B. Theatre, Wardour Street, W.I. 7.15 p.m. A. Bowen, J. Mori and P. A. Tuck : *Current Developments in Film Presentation*.

Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, S.W.7. 6.15 p.m. Peter Ward-Jackson : *Osterley Park House*.

THURS. 1 APR. Electrical Engineers, Institution of, Savoy Place, W.C.2. 5.30 p.m. D. P. Sayers, M. E. Labordé and F. J. Lane : *The Possibilities of a Cross-Channel Power Link*.

MON. 5 APR. Electrical Engineers, Institution of, Savoy Place, W.C.2. 5.30 p.m. *Technical Problems involved in Receiving Alternative Television Programmes* (Discussion).

Engineers, Society of, at the Geological Society, Burlington House, W.I. 5.30 p.m. A. Wells : *Brittle Fracture in Steel Structures with special reference to Liberty Ships*.

TUES. 6 APR. Civil Engineers, Institution of, Great George Street, S.W.1. 5.30 p.m. E. A. G. Johnson : *Land Drainage in England and Wales*.

Manchester Geographical Society, 16 St. Mary's Parsonage, Manchester, 3. 6.30 p.m. Professor T. H. Oliver : *Eastern Mediterranean*.

FRI. 9 APR. British Sound Recording Association, at the Royal Society of Arts, W.C.2. 7 p.m. E. W. Berth-Jones : *The Design of Tone Correction Circuits*.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

NOW UNTIL 26 MAR. Wall-Paper Manufacturers Ltd., at the British Colour Council, 13 Portman Square, W.I. Exhibition : *Wall-Paper for Interior Decoration and Displays*.

NOW UNTIL 27 MAR. British Architects, Royal Institute of, 66 Portland Place, W.I. Exhibition : *Photographs of Venetian Villas*.

NOW UNTIL APR. Victoria & Albert Museum, S.W.7. Exhibition : *Bazaar Paintings from Calcutta*.

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